

REMARKS

Claims 2-18 were pending in this application. By way of this amendment and reply to the Office Action mailed January 8, 2003, claims 4 and 15 have been amended, and claims 2, 3 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 4-10 and 12-18 are presently pending for further consideration.

Applicants' representative appreciates the indication of allowance of claims 5-10, 12, 13, 17 and 18, as well as the indication that claims 4 and 14-16 contain allowable subject matter. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 4 has been placed in independent form to include the features of its base claim, claim 2 (there are no intervening claims). Also, minor amendments have been made to claim 4 ("said" to "the", for consistency), without affecting the scope of this claim. Further, claim 15 has been placed in independent form to include the features of its base claim, claim 11 (along with similar minor amendments as done to claim 4). Therefore, due to these amendments, since claim 14 depends from claim 4 (now placed in independent form) and since claim 16 depends from claim 15 (now placed in independent form), "objected to" claims 4 and 14-16 are now believed to be in allowable form.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,159,193. Due to the cancellation of these claims, this rejection is now moot.

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE**Below are the marked up amend d claims:**

4. (Twice Amended) [The] An optical scanning device [according to claim 2,] comprising:

a light source;

forwardly deflecting optical set including a first lens for providing light beams from said light source with a predetermined characteristic, and a second lens for converging said light beams from said first lens in a first direction;

a polygonal mirror unit for deflecting the light beams from said forwardly deflecting optical set into a second direction substantially perpendicular to said first direction;

a third lens for forming the light beams deflected by said polygonal mirror unit as an image onto a predetermined image surface at substantially equal speed,

wherein said third lens having a positive power in the second direction, and said second lens having a power in the second direction, and

wherein said second lens includes a resin lens having a surface whose radius of curvature in [said] the second direction is varied along [said] the first direction.

15. (Amended) [The] An image forming apparatus [according to claim 11,] comprising:

an optical scanning device which includes: a light source; a forwardly deflecting optical set including a first lens for providing light beams from said light source with a predetermined characteristic; a second lens for converging said light beams from said first lens in a first direction; a polygonal mirror unit for deflecting the light beams from said forwardly deflecting optical set into a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction; and a third

lens for forming the light beams deflected by said polygonal mirror unit as an image onto a predetermined image surface at substantially equal speed, wherein said third lens has a positive power in the second direction, and said second lens has a power in the second direction;

a photoreceptor drum which receives said light beam from said optical scanning device; and

a transferring apparatus which transfers a toner image on said photoreceptor drum to a medium,

wherein said second lens comprises a resin lens having a surface whose radius of curvature in [said] the second direction is varied along [said] the first direction.